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JUNE
THE NEW
MUTANTS®

AVENGERS PRIORITY TRANSMISSION

STAN LEE PRESENTS

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS

ON THE EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN'S CENTRAL PARK STANDS WHAT IS ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS BUILDINGS ON EARTH--

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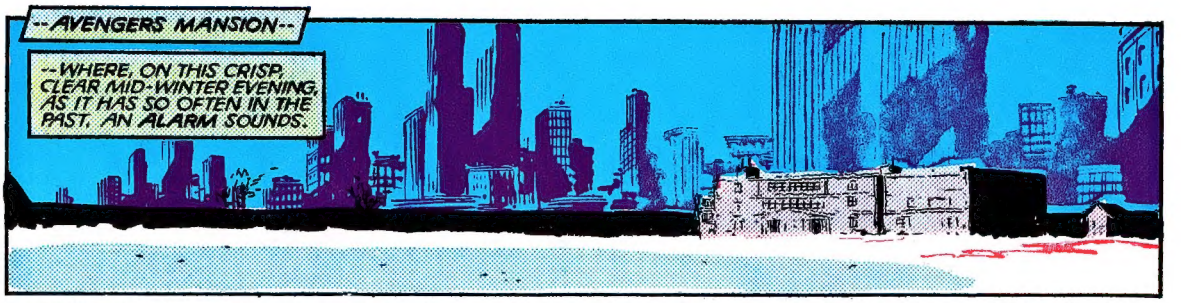
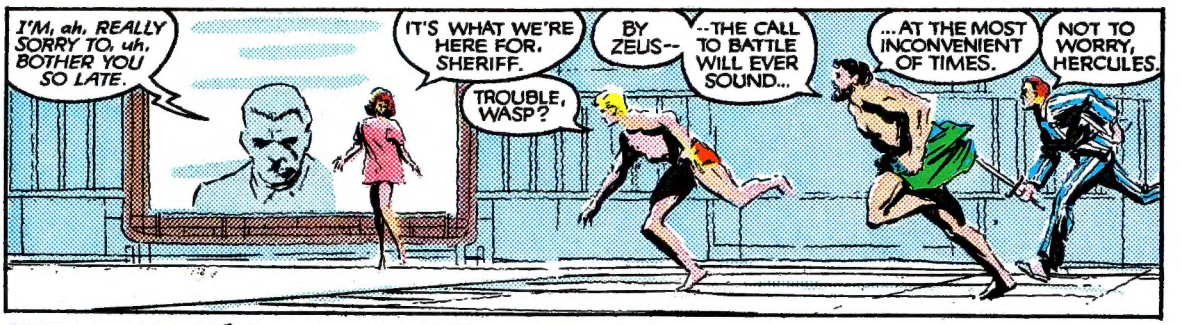
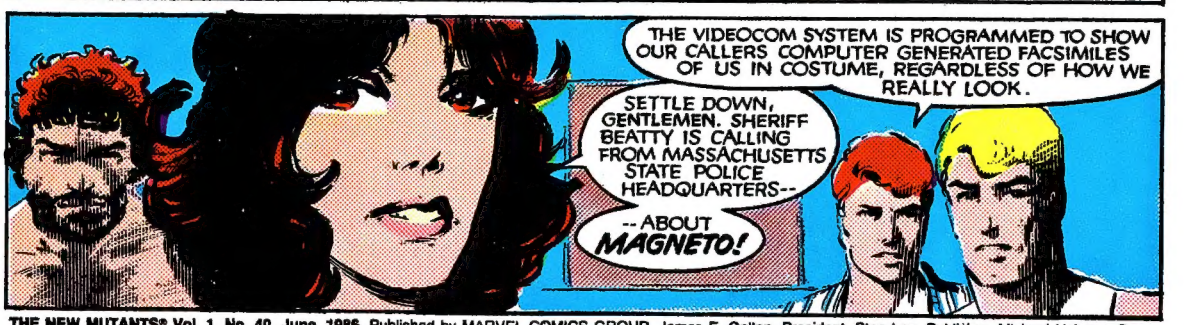



I'M, ah, REALLY SORRY TO, uh, BOTHER YOU SO LATE.
IT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, SHERIFF.
TROUBLE, WASP?
BY ZEUS--
--THE CALL TO BATTLE WILL EVER SOUND...
...AT THE MOST INCONVENIENT OF TIMES.
NOT TO WORRY, HERCULES.


THE VIDEOCOM SYSTEM IS PROGRAMMED TO SHOW OUR CALLERS COMPUTER GENERATED FACSIMILES OF US IN COSTUME, REGARDLESS OF HOW WE REALLY LOOK.
SETTLE DOWN, GENTLEMEN. SHERIFF BEATTY IS CALLING FROM MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
--ABOUT MAGNETO!

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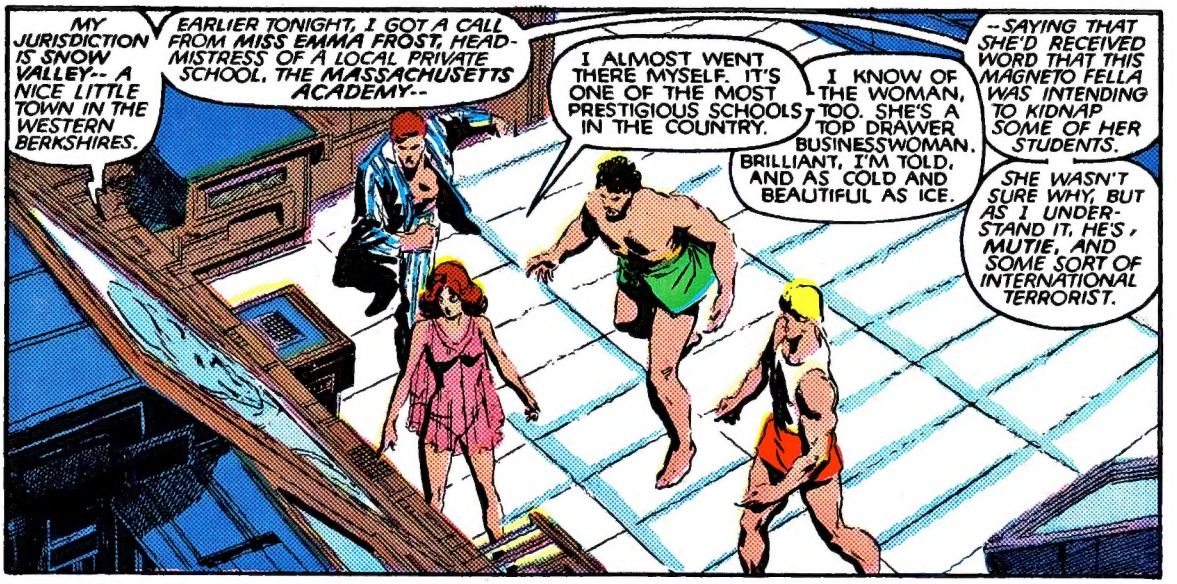
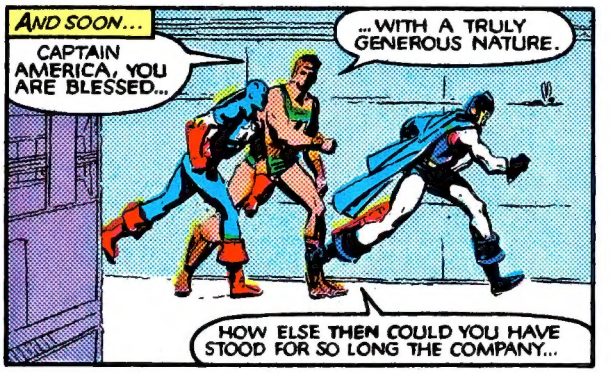
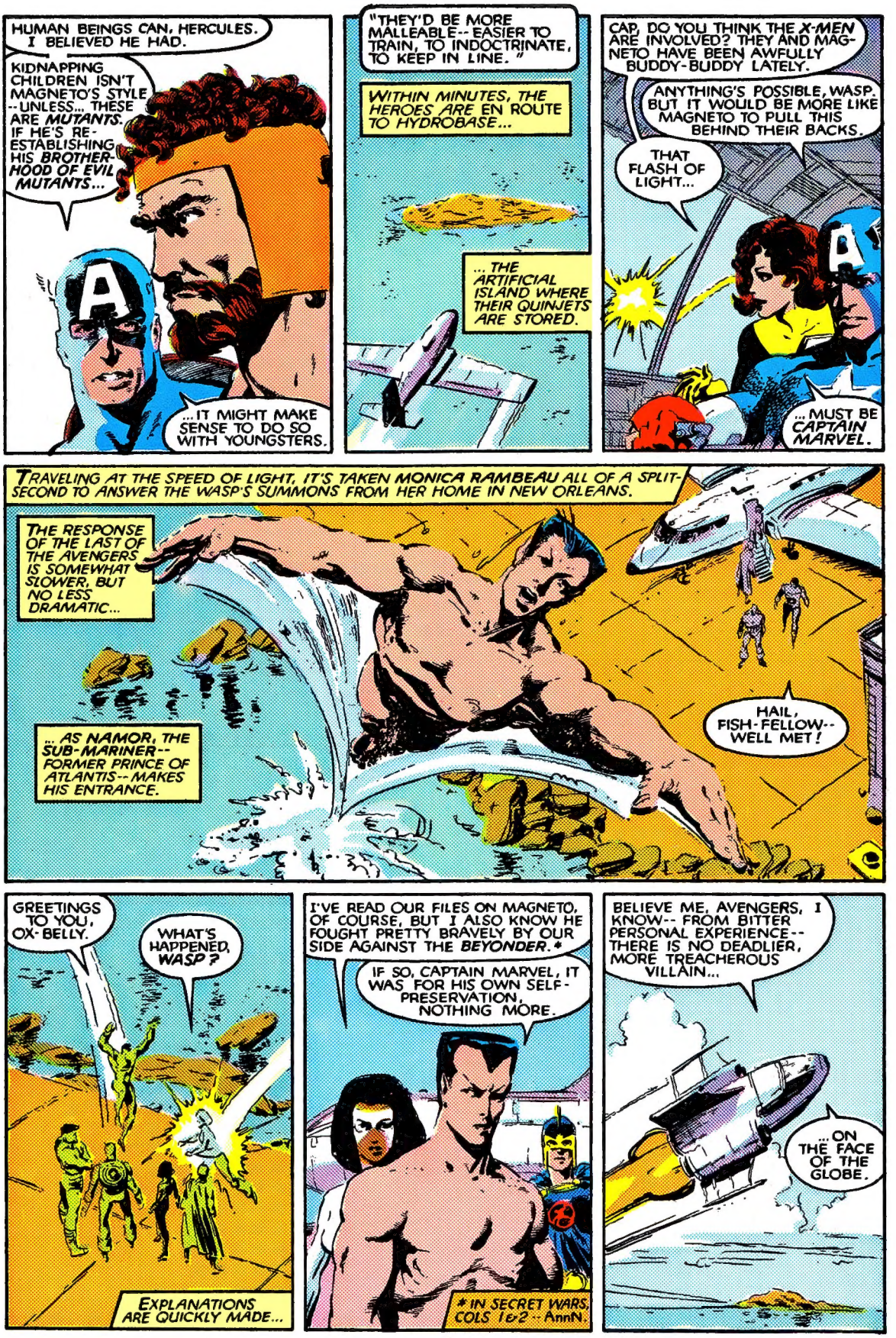

MY JURISDICTION IS SNOW VALLEY-- A NICE LITTLE TOWN IN THE WESTERN BERKSHIRES.
EARLIER TONIGHT, I GOT A CALL FROM MISS EMMA FROST, HEADMISTRESS OF A LOCAL PRIVATE SCHOOL, THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY--
I ALMOST WENT THERE MYSELF. IT'S ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.
I KNOW OF THE WOMAN, TOO. SHE'S A TOP DRAWER BUSINESSWOMAN. BRILLIANT, I'M TOLD, AND AS COLD AND BEAUTIFUL AS ICE.
--SAYING THAT SHE'D RECEIVED WORD THAT THIS MAGNETO FELLA WAS INTENDING TO KIDNAP SOME OF HER STUDENTS.
SHE WASN'T SURE WHY, BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE'S, MUTIE, AND SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST.

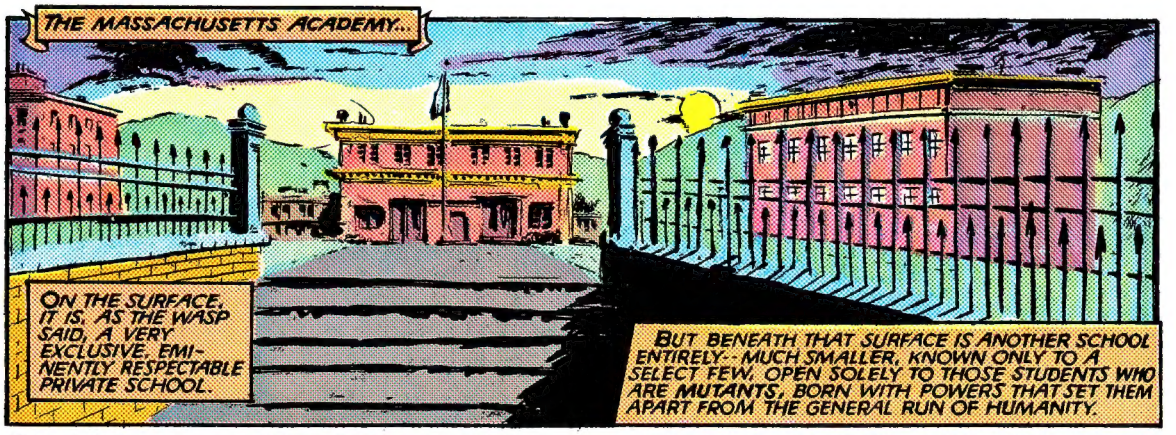
ANYHOW, HE'S WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.
SO I'M CALLING ON THE AVENGERS FOR HELP.
IT'S YOURS, SHERIFF.
WHATEVER THAT SNEAK TRIES, WE'LL STOP HIM.

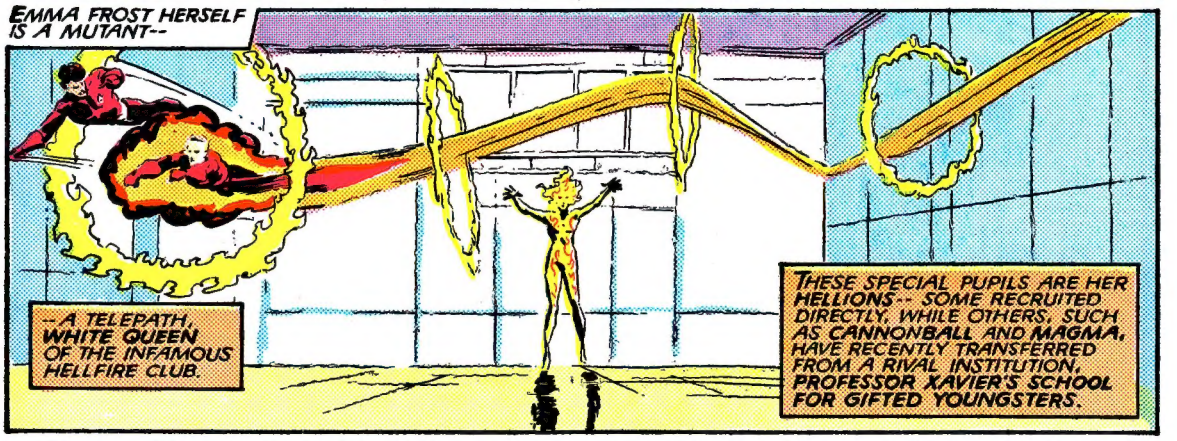
SO MUCH FOR THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM'S MUCH VAUNTED "REFORMATION."
I CONFESS I HALF-EXPECTED THIS...
...BUT I HOPED THINGS WOULD TURN OUT DIFFERENTLY.

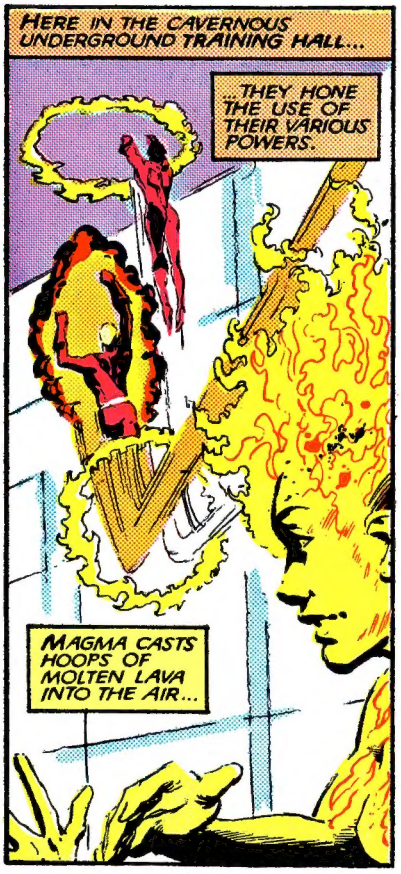

AND SOON...
CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU ARE BLESSED...
...WITH A TRULY GENEROUS NATURE.
HOW ELSE THEN COULD YOU HAVE STOOD FOR SO LONG THE COMPANY...

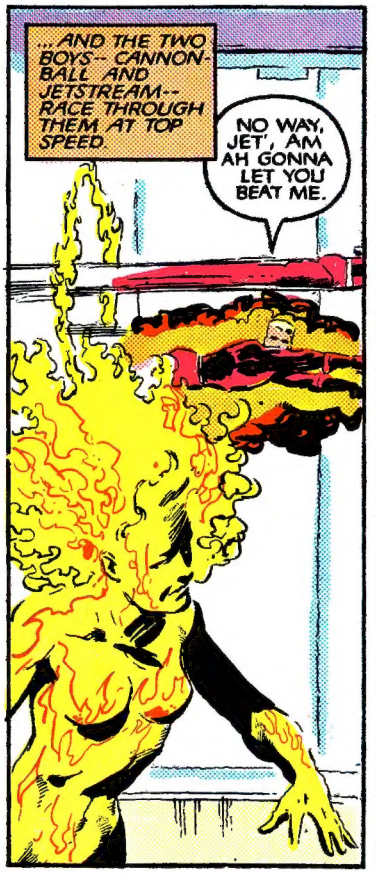
... OF THAT ASGARDIAN DULLARD, THOR?
BUT SUCH CHARITY MUST NEEDS BE TEMPERED WITH COMMON SENSE.
SOME LEOPARDS, MY FRIEND, CANNOT CHANGE THEIR SPOTS.


HUMAN BEINGS CAN, HERCULES. I BELIEVED HE HAD.
KIDNAPPING CHILDREN ISN'T MAGNETO'S STYLE --UNLESS... THESE ARE MUTANTS. IF HE'S RE-ESTABLISHING HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS...
...IT MIGHT MAKE SENSE TO DO SO WITH YOUNGSTERS.
"THEY'D BE MORE MALLEABLE--EASIER TO TRAIN, TO INDOCTRINATE, TO KEEP IN LINE."
WITHIN MINUTES, THE HEROES ARE EN ROUTE TO HYDROBASE...
...THE ARTIFICIAL ISLAND WHERE THEIR QUINJETS ARE STORED.
CAP, DO YOU THINK THE X-MEN ARE INVOLVED? THEY AND MAGNETO HAVE BEEN AWFULLY BUDDY-BUDDY LATELY.
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, WASP. BUT IT WOULD BE MORE LIKE MAGNETO TO PULL THIS BEHIND THEIR BACKS.
THAT FLASH OF LIGHT...
...MUST BE CAPTAIN MARVEL.
TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, IT'S TAKEN MONICA RAMBEAU ALL OF A SPLIT-SECOND TO ANSWER THE WASP'S SUMMONS FROM HER HOME IN NEW ORLEANS.
THE RESPONSE OF THE LAST OF THE AVENGERS IS SOMEWHAT SLOWER, BUT NO LESS DRAMATIC...
...AS NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER--FORMER PRINCE OF ATLANTIS--MAKES HIS ENTRANCE.
HAIL, FISH-FELLOW--WELL MET!
GREETINGS TO YOU, OX-BELLY.
WHAT'S HAPPENED, WASP?
EXPLANATIONS ARE QUICKLY MADE...
I'VE READ OUR FILES ON MAGNETO, OF COURSE, BUT I ALSO KNOW HE FOUGHT PRETTY BRAVELY BY OUR SIDE AGAINST THE BEYONDER.*
IF SO, CAPTAIN MARVEL, IT WAS FOR HIS OWN SELF-PRESERVATION, NOTHING MORE.
* IN SECRET WARS, COLS 1&2 -- AnnN.
BELIEVE ME, AVENGERS, I KNOW-- FROM BITTER PERSONAL EXPERIENCE-- THERE IS NO DEADLIER, MORE TREACHEROUS VILLAIN...
...ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE.

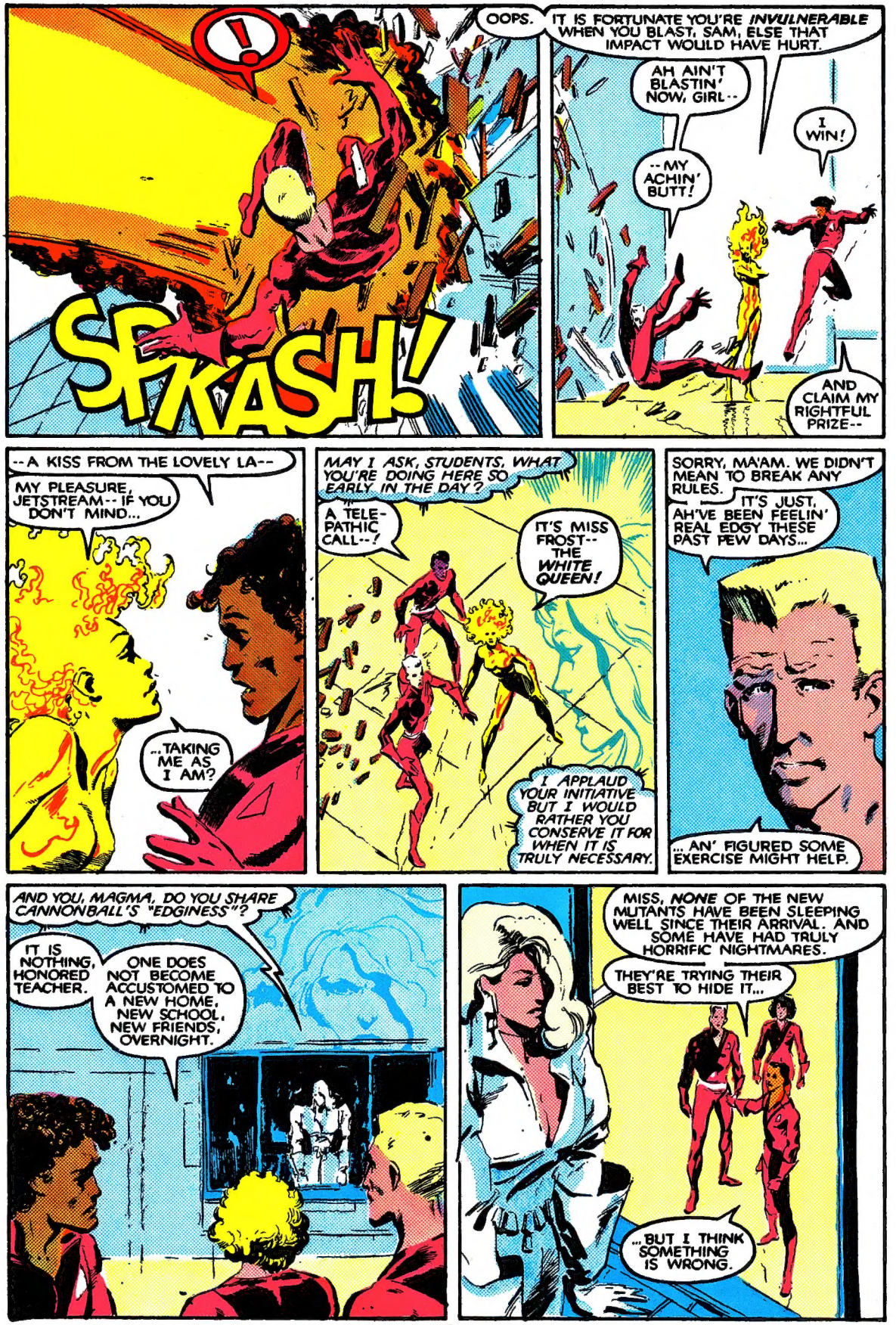

THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
ON THE SURFACE, IT IS, AS THE WASP SAID, A VERY EXCLUSIVE, EMINENTLY RESPECTABLE PRIVATE SCHOOL.
BUT BENEATH THAT SURFACE IS ANOTHER SCHOOL ENTIRELY--MUCH SMALLER, KNOWN ONLY TO A SELECT FEW, OPEN SOLELY TO THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE MUTANTS, BORN WITH POWERS THAT SET THEM APART FROM THE GENERAL RUN OF HUMANITY.

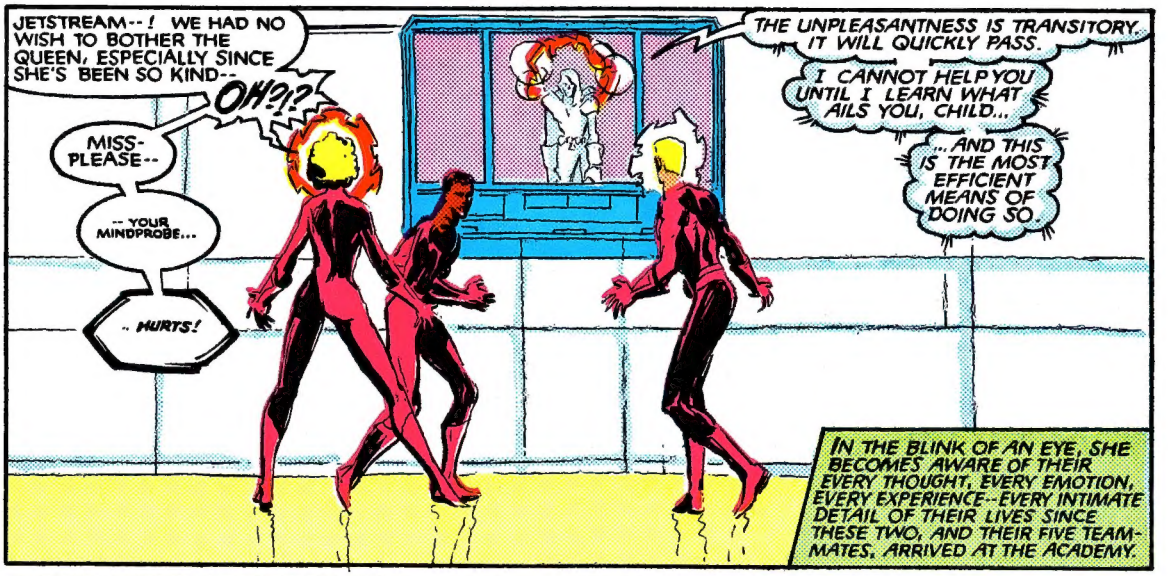

EMMA FROST HERSELF IS A MUTANT--
--A TELEPATH, WHITE QUEEN OF THE INFAMOUS HELLFIRE CLUB.
THESE SPECIAL PUPILS ARE HER HELLIONS--SOME RECRUITED DIRECTLY, WHILE OTHERS, SUCH AS CANNONBALL AND MAGMA, HAVE RECENTLY TRANSFERRED FROM A RIVAL INSTITUTION, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

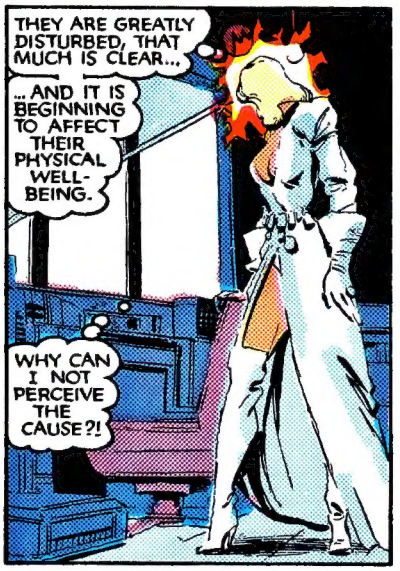

HERE IN THE CAVERNOUS UNDERGROUND TRAINING HALL...
...THEY HONE THE USE OF THEIR VARIOUS POWERS.
MAGMA CASTS HOOPS OF MOLTEN LAVA INTO THE AIR...

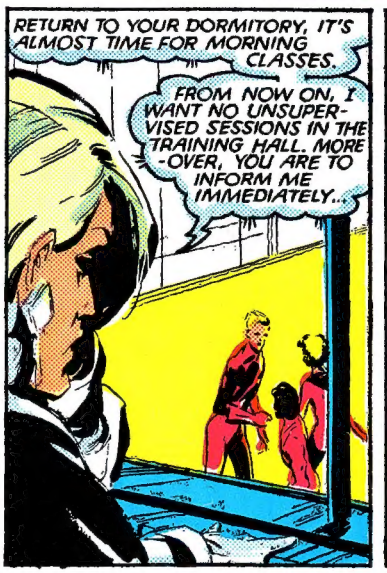

...AND THE TWO BOYS--CANNONBALL AND JETSTREAM--RACE THROUGH THEM AT TOP SPEED.
NO WAY, JET', AM AH GONNA LET YOU BEAT ME.

YOU'RE FAST, CANNONBALL, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.
BUT THIS SLALOM IS NOT MERELY A TEST OF SPEED...
?
...BUT OF AGILITY!


!
SFKASH!
OOPS.
IT IS FORTUNATE YOU'RE INVULNERABLE WHEN YOU BLAST, SAM, ELSE THAT IMPACT WOULD HAVE HURT.
AH AIN'T BLASTIN' NOW, GIRL--
--MY ACHIN' BUTT!
I WIN!
AND CLAIM MY RIGHTFUL PRIZE--
--A KISS FROM THE LOVELY LA--
MY PLEASURE, JETSTREAM-- IF YOU DON'T MIND...
...TAKING ME AS I AM?
MAY I ASK, STUDENTS, WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE SO EARLY IN THE DAY?
A TELE-PATHIC CALL--!
IT'S MISS FROST-- THE WHITE QUEEN!
I APPLAUD YOUR INITIATIVE BUT I WOULD RATHER YOU CONSERVE IT FOR WHEN IT IS TRULY NECESSARY.
SORRY, MA'AM. WE DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK ANY RULES.
IT'S JUST, AH'VE BEEN FEELIN' REAL EDGY THESE PAST FEW DAYS...
... AN' FIGURED SOME EXERCISE MIGHT HELP.
AND YOU, MAGMA, DO YOU SHARE CANNONBALL'S "EDGINESS"?
IT IS NOTHING, HONORED TEACHER.
ONE DOES NOT BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO A NEW HOME, NEW SCHOOL, NEW FRIENDS, OVERNIGHT.
MISS, NONE OF THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE BEEN SLEEPING WELL SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL. AND SOME HAVE HAD TRULY HORRIFIC NIGHTMARES.
THEY'RE TRYING THEIR BEST TO HIDE IT...
...BUT I THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG.


JETSTREAM--! WE HAD NO WISH TO BOTHER THE QUEEN, ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE'S BEEN SO KIND--
OH?!?
MISS-- PLEASE--
-- YOUR MINDPROBE...
.. HURTS!
THE UNPLEASANTNESS IS TRANSITORY. IT WILL QUICKLY PASS.
I CANNOT HELP YOU UNTIL I LEARN WHAT AILS YOU, CHILD...
...AND THIS IS THE MOST EFFICIENT MEANS OF DOING SO.
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, SHE BECOMES AWARE OF THEIR EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY EMOTION, EVERY EXPERIENCE--EVERY INTIMATE DETAIL OF THEIR LIVES SINCE THESE TWO, AND THEIR FIVE TEAMMATES, ARRIVED AT THE ACADEMY.

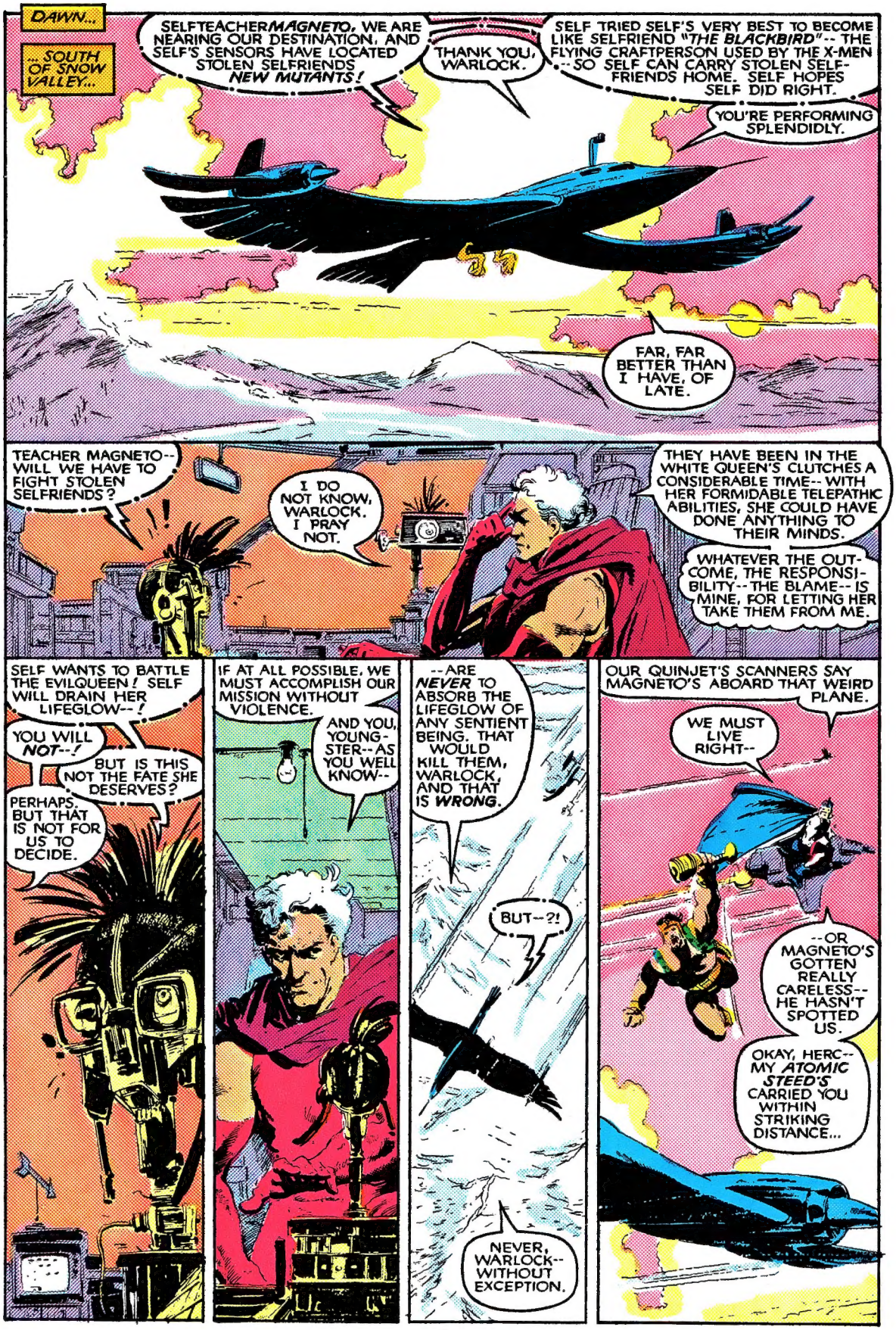

THEY ARE GREATLY DISTURBED, THAT MUCH IS CLEAR...
...AND IT IS BEGINNING TO AFFECT THEIR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.
WHY CAN I NOT PERCEIVE THE CAUSE?!

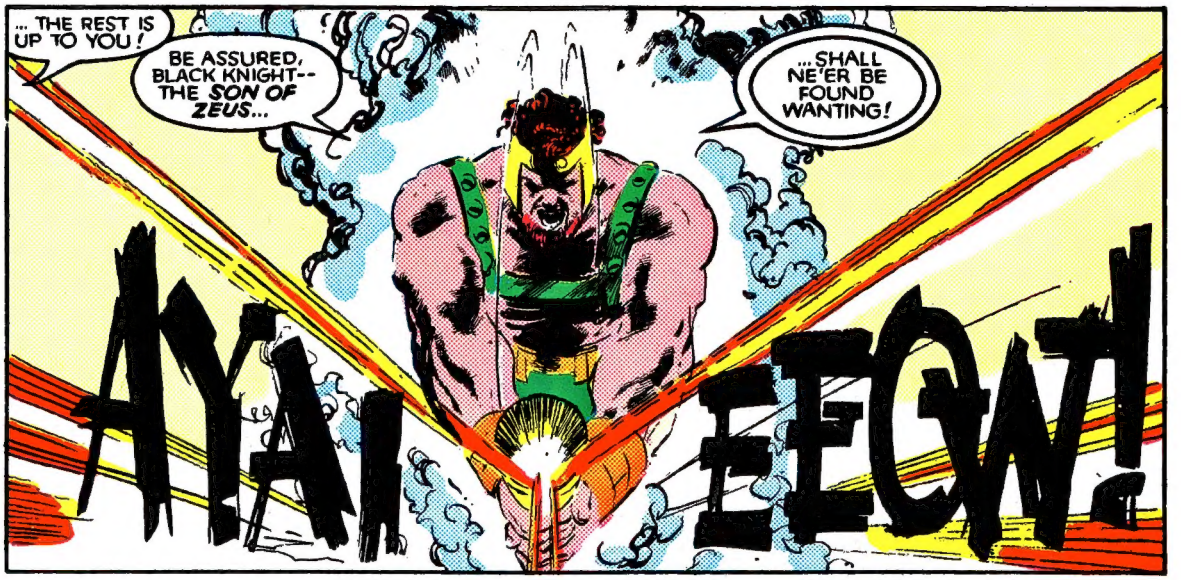

RETURN TO YOUR DORMITORY, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MORNING CLASSES.
FROM NOW ON, I WANT NO UNSUPERVISED SESSIONS IN THE TRAINING HALL. MORE-OVER, YOU ARE TO INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY...

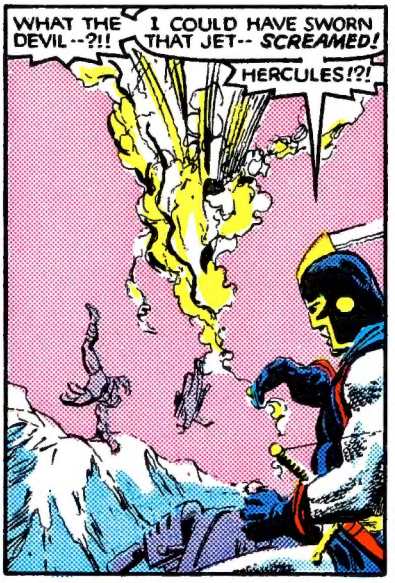
...OF ANY ILLNESS OR PROBLEM, NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT OR INCONSEQUENTIAL THEY MAY SEEM-- IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?!
YES, MA'AM.
YES, MISS.
THANKS A LOT, JET. SOME PAL YOU ARE!
I DID WHAT I THOUGHT BEST, MY FRIEND.

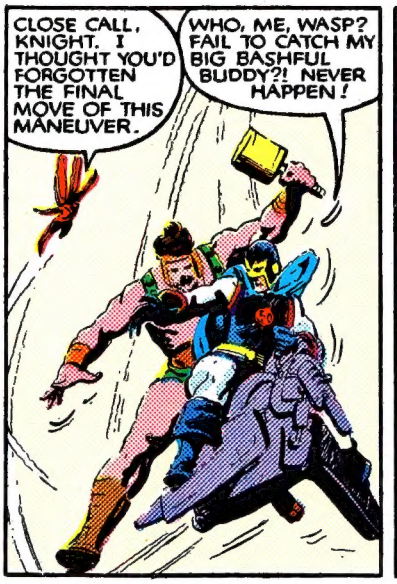
WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS FIRST CAME TO ME, THEY WERE SUFFERING FROM SEVERE PSYCHIC SHOCK-- THE LEGACY OF THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH A FANTASTIC ALIEN ENTITY. *
TO HEAL THEM, I TELEPATHICALLY MODIFIED THEIR MEMORIES OF THAT CONFRONTATION. I THOUGHT THAT PROCEDURE COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL, THE CHILDREN WHOLLY CURED, READY TO BE MOLDED INTO PRIME ASSETS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB.
WAS I WRONG?
NOTHING ABOUT THEM APPEARS ABNORMAL. BY RIGHTS, THEY SHOULD BE IN PERFECT HEALTH. YET THEY ARE NOT
AND IF THEIR CONDITION DETERIORATES, WHAT THEN?

*THE BEYONDER, IN SW II #s 8&9--A.

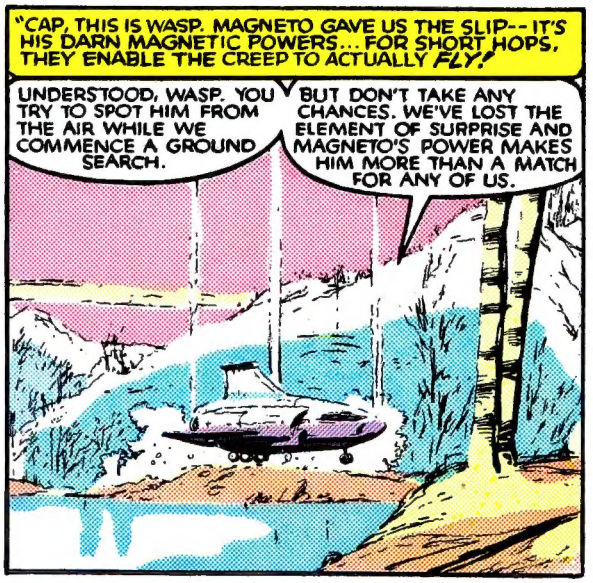

DAWN...
... SOUTH OF SNOW VALLEY...
SELFTEACHER MAGNETO, WE ARE NEARING OUR DESTINATION, AND SELF'S SENSORS HAVE LOCATED STOLEN SELFRIENDS NEW MUTANTS!
THANK YOU, WARLOCK.
SELF TRIED SELF'S VERY BEST TO BECOME LIKE SELFRIEND "THE BLACKBIRD"-- THE FLYING CRAFTPERSON USED BY THE X-MEN --SO SELF CAN CARRY STOLEN SELF-FRIENDS HOME. SELF HOPES SELF DID RIGHT.
YOU'RE PERFORMING SPLENDIDLY.
FAR, FAR BETTER THAN I HAVE, OF LATE.
TEACHER MAGNETO-- WILL WE HAVE TO FIGHT STOLEN SELFRIENDS?
!!
I DO NOT KNOW, WARLOCK. I PRAY NOT.
THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE WHITE QUEEN'S CLUTCHES A CONSIDERABLE TIME-- WITH HER FORMIDABLE TELEPATHIC ABILITIES, SHE COULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO THEIR MINDS.
WHATEVER THE OUT-COME, THE RESPONSI-BILITY-- THE BLAME-- IS MINE, FOR LETTING HER TAKE THEM FROM ME.
SELF WANTS TO BATTLE THE EVILQUEEN! SELF WILL DRAIN HER LIFEGLOW--!
YOU WILL NOT--!
BUT IS THIS NOT THE FATE SHE DESERVES?
PERHAPS. BUT THAT IS NOT FOR US TO DECIDE.
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE MUST ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION WITHOUT VIOLENCE.
AND YOU, YOUNG-STER--AS YOU WELL KNOW--
--ARE NEVER TO ABSORB THE LIFEGLOW OF ANY SENTIENT BEING. THAT WOULD KILL THEM, WARLOCK, AND THAT IS WRONG.
BUT--?!
NEVER, WARLOCK-- WITHOUT EXCEPTION.
OUR QUINJET'S SCANNERS SAY MAGNETO'S ABOARD THAT WEIRD PLANE.
WE MUST LIVE RIGHT--
--OR MAGNETO'S GOTTEN REALLY CARELESS-- HE HASN'T SPOTTED US.
OKAY, HERC-- MY ATOMIC STEED'S CARRIED YOU WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE...

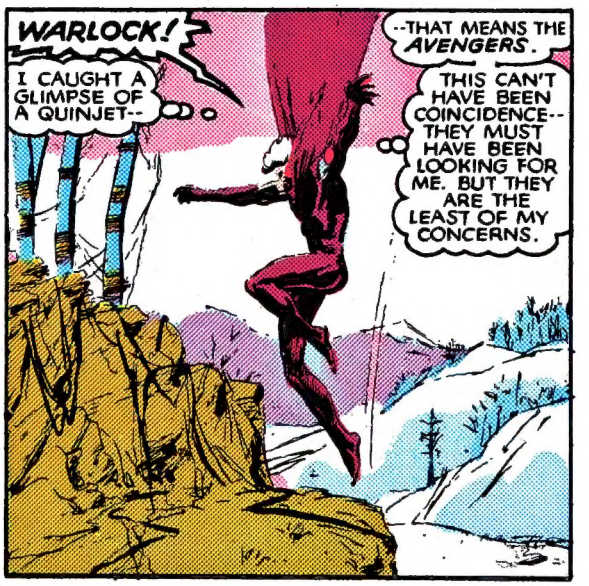

... THE REST IS UP TO YOU!
BE ASSURED, BLACK KNIGHT-- THE SON OF ZEUS...
...SHALL NE'ER BE FOUND WANTING!
AYAI
EEOW!

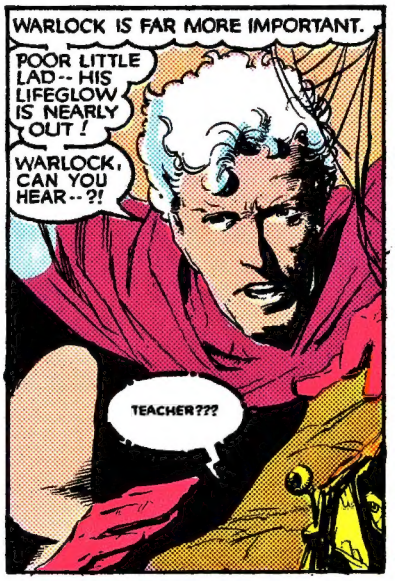

WHAT THE DEVIL--?!!
I COULD HAVE SWORN THAT JET-- SCREAMED!
HERCULES!?!


CLOSE CALL, KNIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU'D FORGOTTEN THE FINAL MOVE OF THIS MANEUVER.
WHO, ME, WASP? FAIL TO CATCH MY BIG BASHFUL BUDDY?! NEVER HAPPEN!

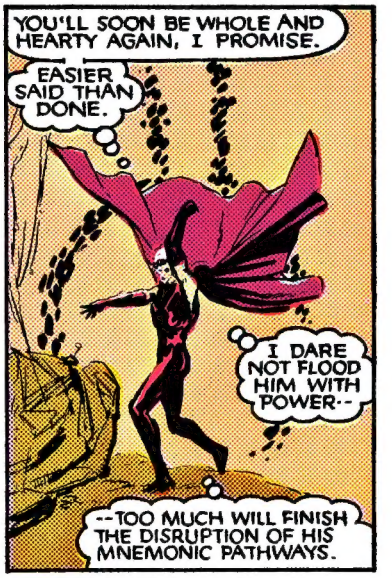
ANY OF YOU GUYS EVER SEE A MACHINE COME APART LIKE THAT BEFORE?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DRAPED A WHOLE HUGE BALL OF YARN ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN-TOP.
I AGREE, WASP. 'TIS PASSING STRANGE.

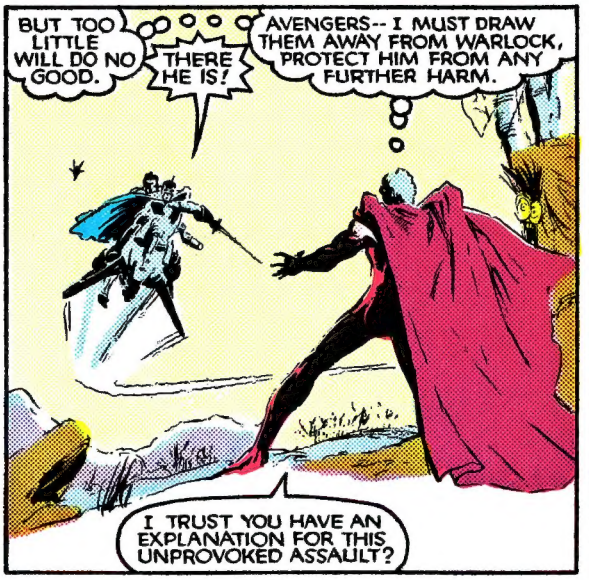

"CAP, THIS IS WASP. MAGNETO GAVE US THE SLIP-- IT'S HIS DARN MAGNETIC POWERS... FOR SHORT HOPS, THEY ENABLE THE CREEP TO ACTUALLY FLY!
UNDERSTOOD, WASP. YOU TRY TO SPOT HIM FROM THE AIR WHILE WE COMMENCE A GROUND SEARCH.
BUT DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES. WE'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE AND MAGNETO'S POWER MAKES HIM MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY OF US.

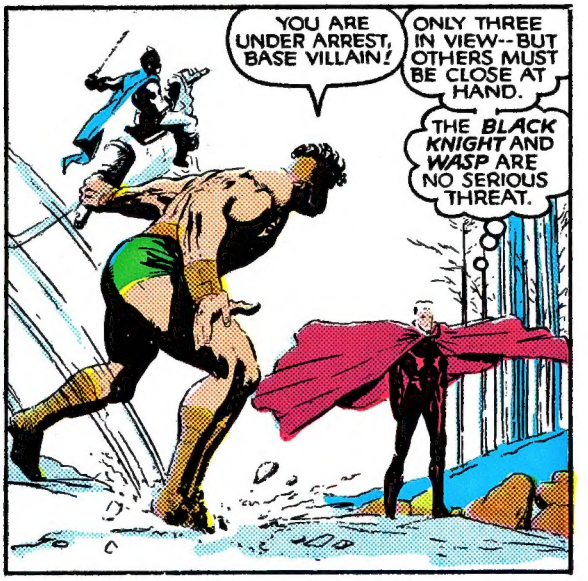

WARLOCK!
I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF A QUINJET--
--THAT MEANS THE AVENGERS.
THIS CAN'T HAVE BEEN COINCIDENCE-- THEY MUST HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME. BUT THEY ARE THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS.


WARLOCK IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT.
POOR LITTLE LAD-- HIS LIFEGLOW IS NEARLY OUT!
WARLOCK, CAN YOU HEAR--?!
TEACHER???

SELFSTATUS?
UNKNOWN...
...MASSIVE SYSTEMS DIS-CORPORATION...
THE DAMAGE IS CRITICAL, HE'S BARELY ALIVE!
BE BRAVE, CHILD, YOU'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

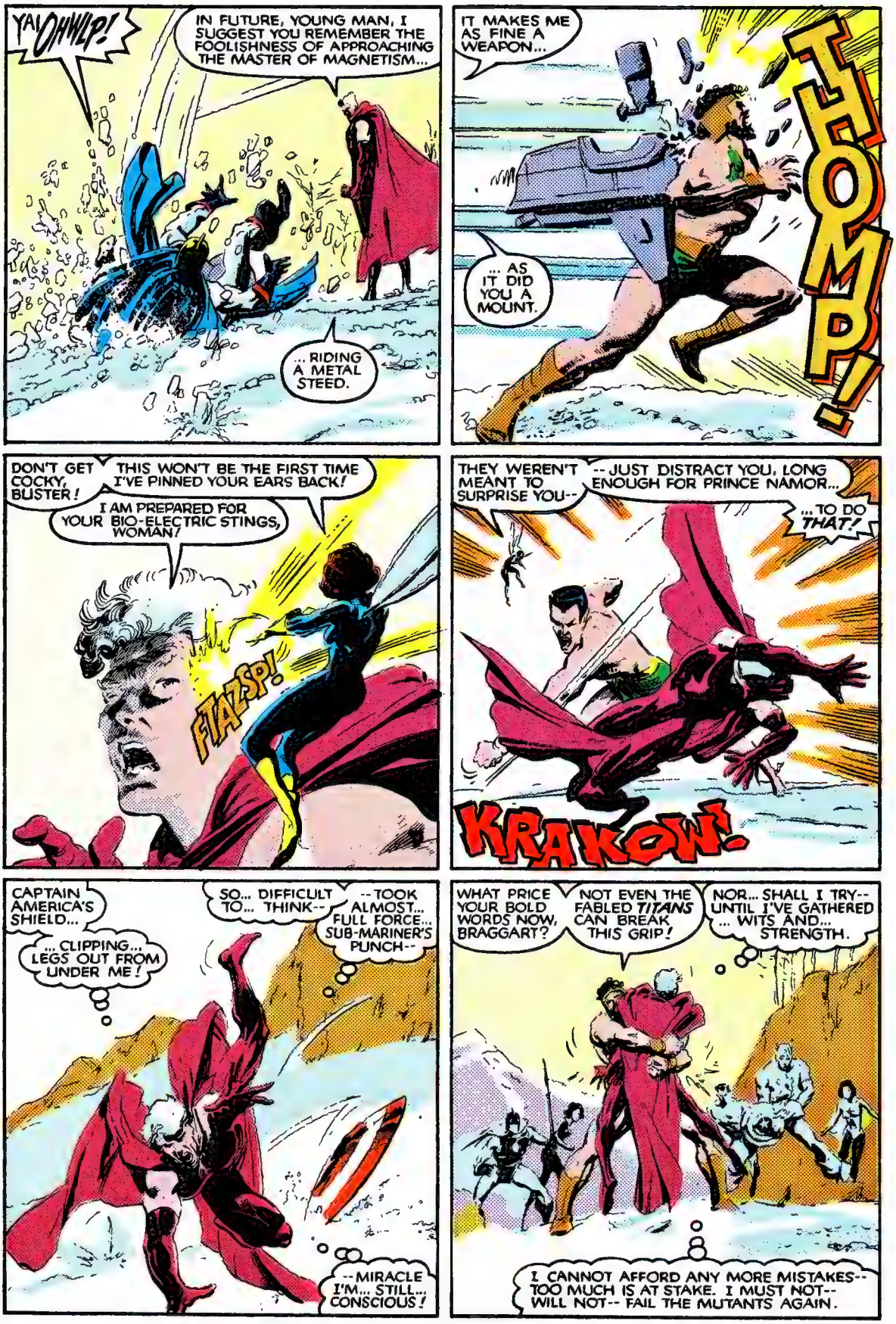

YOU'LL SOON BE WHOLE AND HEARTY AGAIN, I PROMISE.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
I DARE NOT FLOOD HIM WITH POWER--
--TOO MUCH WILL FINISH THE DISRUPTION OF HIS MNEMONIC PATHWAYS.


BUT TOO LITTLE WILL DO NO GOOD.
THERE HE IS!
AVENGERS-- I MUST DRAW THEM AWAY FROM WARLOCK, PROTECT HIM FROM ANY FURTHER HARM.
I TRUST YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS UNPROVOKED ASSAULT?


YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, BASE VILLAIN!
ONLY THREE IN VIEW-- BUT OTHERS MUST BE CLOSE AT HAND.
THE BLACK KNIGHT AND WASP ARE NO SERIOUS THREAT.

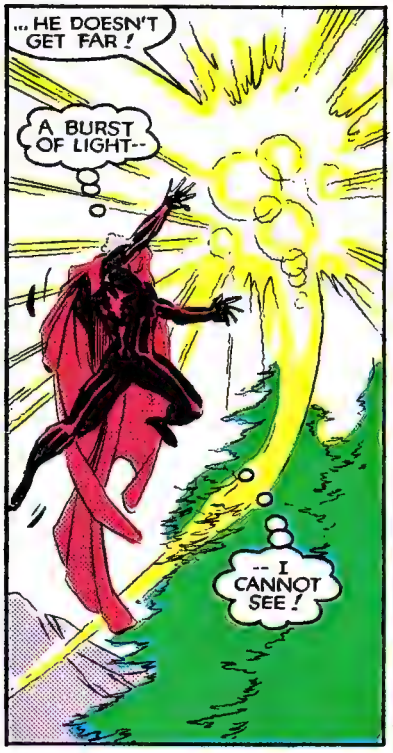
HERCULES, HOWEVER, IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
YIELD YOUR PERSON TO US FORTHWITH...
...OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

NO.
HEY--?!
ZOUNDS!
HAPPY LANDINGS, SIR KNIGHT.


YA! OHWLP!
IN FUTURE, YOUNG MAN, I SUGGEST YOU REMEMBER THE FOOLISHNESS OF APPROACHING THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM...
... RIDING A METAL STEED.
IT MAKES ME AS FINE A WEAPON...
... AS IT DID YOU A MOUNT.
THOMP!
DON'T GET COCKY, BUSTER!
THIS WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE PINNED YOUR EARS BACK!
I AM PREPARED FOR YOUR BIO-ELECTRIC STINGS, WOMAN!
FIAZSP!
THEY WEREN'T MEANT TO SURPRISE YOU--
-- JUST DISTRACT YOU, LONG ENOUGH FOR PRINCE NAMOR...
... TO DO THAT!
KRAKOW!
CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD...
... CLIPPING... LEGS OUT FROM UNDER ME!
SO... DIFFICULT TO... THINK--
--TOOK ALMOST... FULL FORCE... SUB-MARINER'S PUNCH--
--MIRACLE I'M... STILL... CONSCIOUS!
WHAT PRICE YOUR BOLD WORDS NOW, BRAGGART?
NOT EVEN THE FABLED TITANS CAN BREAK THIS GRIP!
NOR... SHALL I TRY-- UNTIL I'VE GATHERED ... WITS AND... STRENGTH.
I CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE MISTAKES-- TOO MUCH IS AT STAKE. I MUST NOT-- WILL NOT-- FAIL THE MUTANTS AGAIN.

WHY... HAVE YOU ATTACKED ME?! I'VE DONE... NOTHING--!
VILE CUR, YOUR PROTESTS ARE A WASTE OF BREATH!
THEY FALL UPON DEAF EARS!
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR PLOT TO KIDNAP SOME KIDS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, MAGNETO -- AN ALL-TIME LOW, EVEN FOR YOU.
WHAT--?!
THIS MUST BE THE WHITE QUEEN'S DOING. A BRILLIANT STRATEGEM -- THAT MANAGES TO CHECK ME WITHOUT COMPROMISING HER IDENTITY OR HER HELLIONS.
AND THESE HEROES ARE ONLY TOO WILLING TO BELIEVE THE WORST OF ME -- I SUPPOSE, WITH GOOD REASON.
IF I EXPLAIN MYSELF FULLY, I'LL BE REVEALING THE NEW MUTANTS' SECRETS -- AND THAT, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO.
I'VE NO GUARANTEE I'LL BE BELIEVED, ANYWAY.
BUT I MUST TRY -- SOMETHING!
AVENGERS, YOU HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ABDUCTING ANYONE.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IT IS PERSONAL. BUT I MEAN NONE HARM.
OF THAT, I PLEDGE MY WORD.
I KNOW TOO WELL WHAT THAT IS WORTH.
THOSE WAYS -- AND DAYS -- ARE PAST, NAMOR. I HAVE CHANGED.
THE AVENGERS ACCEPT THAT OF YOU, WHY NOT FROM ME?
IN WORLD WAR II, THE SUBMARINER WAS A HERO -- AND MY FRIEND -- FIGHTING WITH THE ALLIES AGAINST NAZI TYRANNY.
HOW FORTUNATE FOR HIM, CAPTAIN.
AT THE TIME, I WAS BUT A VICTIM OF THAT SELF-SAME TYRANNY.
THEN, I LACKED THE STRENGTH TO WIN MY FREEDOM -- AND SAVE THE LIVES OF THOSE I HELD DEAR --
-- BUT NEVER AGAIN!
WHOUPGH!

HOW--?!
HIS CAPE MUST BE LACED WITH METAL FIBERS. HIS MAGNETIC POWER COULD EXPAND IT TO A DEGREE MUSCLES COULDN'T...
...SUFFICIENT TO BREAK EVEN HERCULES' HOLD.
BY MY TROTH--
--WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON HIM--!
DON'T WORRY, EVERYONE. I'LL MAKE SURE...


...HE DOESN'T GET FAR!
A BURST OF LIGHT--
-- I CANNOT SEE!

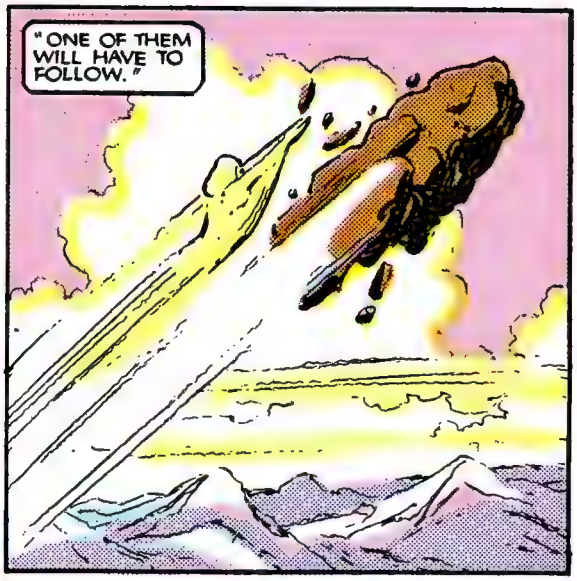
HOLD THAT POSE, FELLA--
--WHILE MY EBONY BLADE--
--AND THIS FIR TREE...
...BRING YOU BACK DOWN TO EARTH!

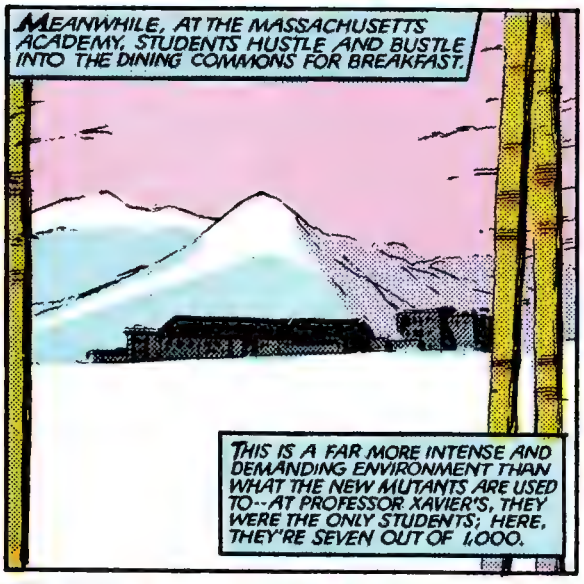
WHERE IS HE?!!
IS THE FIEND SOME MAGICIAN, ABLE TO CLOUD OUR MINDS OR MAKE HIMSELF INVISIBLE?!
I CANNOT FIND HIM!

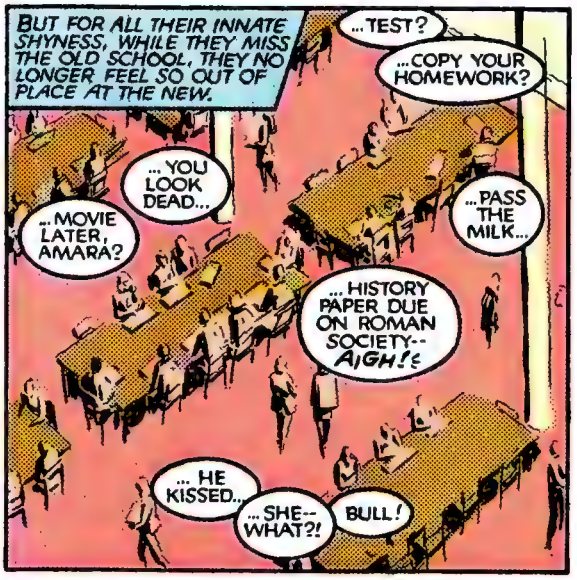
THE ONLY PLACE TO HIDE IS THE FOREST.
FAN OUT, AVENGERS!
SEARCH PROCEDURE THREE!
YOU GOT IT, LADY. CAP, LET'S--!
WAIT A MINUTE, KNIGHT, WILL YOU?
I'D LIKE YOU TO EXAMINE THE WRECKAGE OF MAGNETO'S AIR-CRAFT-- ALL THIS SPAGHETTI STRAND MATERIAL STREWN AROUND HERE.
ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
CALL IT A HUNCH. SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR DOESN'T SIT RIGHT.

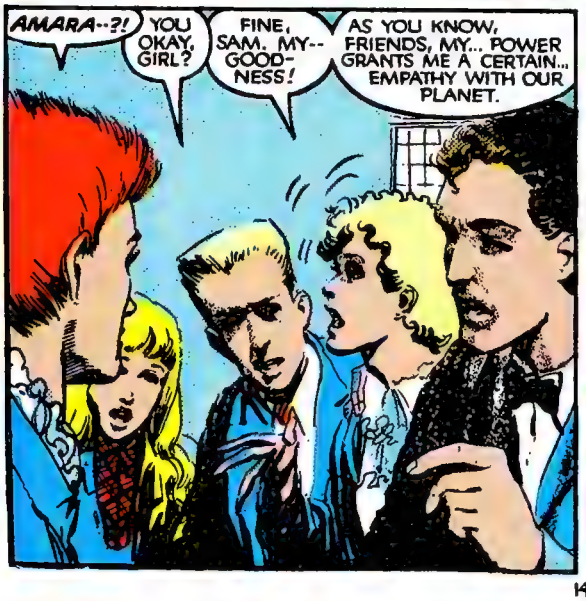
PERHAPS IT'S THE FACT MAGNETO'S BOTHERING TO TALK INSTEAD OF STRIKING AT US VICIOUSLY AS HE USED TO. OR THE THINGS HE'S SAYING. WHY IS HE HOLDING BACK?
DOES THAT MATTER?
EVEN IF HE WERE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS--
--HE'S STILL A FUGITIVE!
HOLD IT, MISTER!
THE MAN'S SENSES AND REFLEXES ARE INHUMAN...
... AND HIS ACCURSED SHIELD IS FORMED OF SOME SUBSTANCE MY MAGNETIC POWERS CANNOT AFFECT.
I BARELY MANAGED TO DODGE--
--oh, NO!
AHA! NOW, DOG, YOU'LL RUE...
...THE DAY--!
LOSING MY FOOTING--
--WON'T TRY TO STOP MYSELF--
--LET POWER CUSHION MY FALL.
IT IS SO HARD TO RESTRAIN MYSELF. I WANT TO UNLEASH MY FULL FURY--
--TEACH THESE SELF-RIGHTEOUS LOUTS ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT MAGNETO IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.
THAT WOULD BE MY ULTIMATE BETRAYAL.
FIRST, CHARLES XAVIER'S FAITH IN ME. THEN, THE NEW MUTANTS'. AND NOW, LASTLY, MY FAITH-- MY BELIEF--IN MYSELF.
AM I TRULY SO WEAK?!
THERE IS SUFFICIENT IRON-LACED ORE HEREABOUTS FOR MY NEEDS.
A SIMPLE MATTER TO ENCASE THIS RAMPAGING OLYMPIAN...
...WITHIN A COCOON OF ROCK.

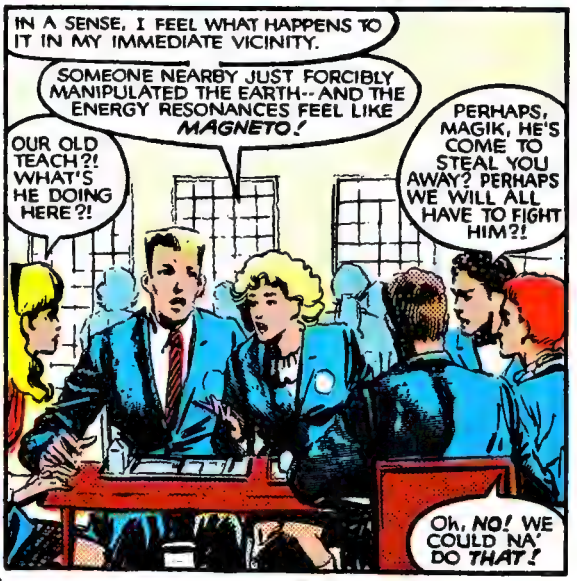
AND HURL IT AWAY!
HERCULES WILL COME TO NO HARM-- AND, ALTHOUGH I THREW HIM TOWARDS THE OCEAN, THE AVENGERS CANNOT AFFOD TO GAMBLE THAT NO "CIVILIANS" WILL BE INJURED BY HIS LANDING.

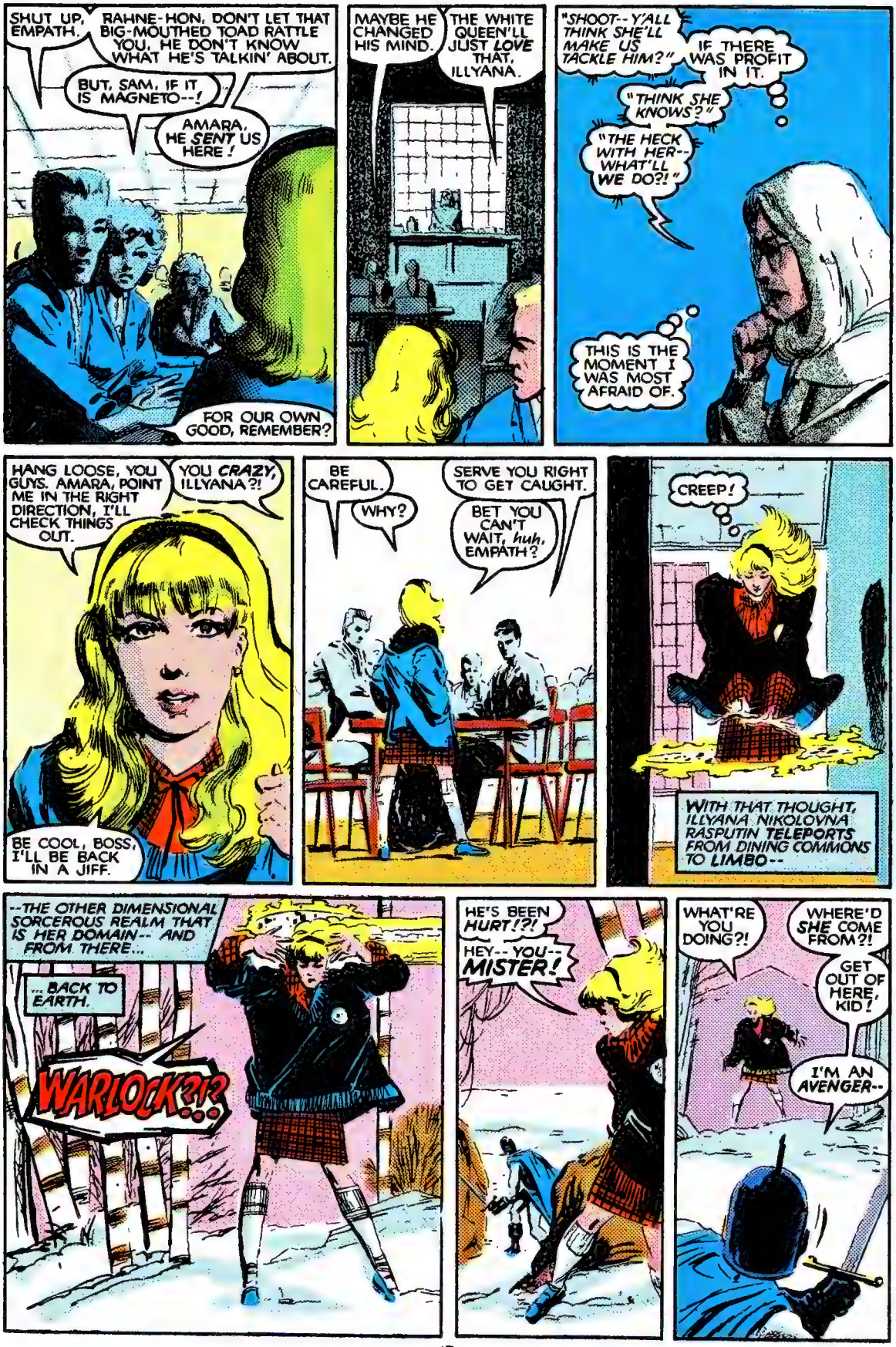

"ONE OF THEM WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW."


MEANWHILE, AT THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, STUDENTS HUSTLE AND BUSTLE INTO THE DINING COMMONS FOR BREAKFAST.
THIS IS A FAR MORE INTENSE AND DEMANDING ENVIRONMENT THAN WHAT THE NEW MUTANTS ARE USED TO--AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S, THEY WERE THE ONLY STUDENTS; HERE, THEY'RE SEVEN OUT OF 1,000.


BUT FOR ALL THEIR INNATE SHYNESS, WHILE THEY MISS THE OLD SCHOOL, THEY NO LONGER FEEL SO OUT OF PLACE AT THE NEW.
...TEST?
...COPY YOUR HOMEWORK?
...YOU LOOK DEAD...
...PASS THE MILK...
...MOVIE LATER, AMARA?
...HISTORY PAPER DUE ON ROMAN SOCIETY-- AIGH!
...HE KISSED..
...SHE-- WHAT?!
BULL!


AMARA--?!
YOU OKAY, GIRL?
FINE, SAM. MY-- GOOD-NESS!
AS YOU KNOW, FRIENDS, MY... POWER GRANTS ME A CERTAIN... EMPATHY WITH OUR PLANET.


IN A SENSE, I FEEL WHAT HAPPENS TO IT IN MY IMMEDIATE VICINITY.
SOMEONE NEARBY JUST FORCIBLY MANIPULATED THE EARTH-- AND THE ENERGY RESONANCES FEEL LIKE MAGNETO!
OUR OLD TEACH?! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
PERHAPS, MAGIK, HE'S COME TO STEAL YOU AWAY? PERHAPS WE WILL ALL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM?!
Oh, NO! WE COULD NA' DO THAT!


SHUT UP, EMPATH.
RAHNE-HON, DON'T LET THAT BIG-MOUTHED TOAD RATTLE YOU. HE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKIN' ABOUT.
BUT, SAM, IF IT IS MAGNETO--!
AMARA, HE SENT US HERE!
FOR OUR OWN GOOD, REMEMBER?
MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND.
THE WHITE QUEEN'LL JUST LOVE THAT, ILLYANA.
"SHOOT-- Y'ALL THINK SHE'LL MAKE US TACKLE HIM?"
IF THERE WAS PROFIT IN IT.
"THINK SHE KNOWS?"
"THE HECK WITH HER-- WHAT'LL WE DO?!"
THIS IS THE MOMENT I WAS MOST AFRAID OF.
HANG LOOSE, YOU GUYS. AMARA, POINT ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, I'LL CHECK THINGS OUT.
YOU CRAZY, ILLYANA?!
BE COOL, BOSS. I'LL BE BACK IN A JIFF.
BE CAREFUL.
WHY?
SERVE YOU RIGHT TO GET CAUGHT.
BET YOU CAN'T WAIT, huh, EMPATH?
CREEP!
WITH THAT THOUGHT, ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN TELEPORTS FROM DINING COMMONS TO LIMBO--
--THE OTHER DIMENSIONAL SORCEROUS REALM THAT IS HER DOMAIN-- AND FROM THERE...
... BACK TO EARTH.
WARLOCK?!?
HE'S BEEN HURT!?!
HEY-- YOU-- MISTER!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?!
GET OUT OF HERE, KID!
I'M AN AVENGER--

-- WE'RE AFTER A DANGEROUS CRIMI
YA!EOW!
STEEL ARMOR, BLACK KNIGHT, IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST ME.
ON THAT RIDGE-- ILLYANA?! BUT HOW--?!!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, YOUNG LADY-- FLEE!

BEFORE YOU'RE HURT!
SINCE WHEN WAS MAGNETO SO SOLICITOUS OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS -- ESPECIALLY ORDI-NARY HUMANS?!
PERHAPS THE REPORTS WE RECEIVED FROM HIS TRIAL BEFORE THE WORLD COURT WERE TRUE?

HE FOUGHT THEN TO PROTECT HIS JUDGES FROM A FORCE OF EVIL MUTANTS.
AND HE STOOD AMONG THE WORLD'S HEROES AGAINST THE BEYONDER.
RELAX YOUR BODY, KNIGHT-- I HAVE YOU.

HE'S ALL RIGHT-- MERELY HAD THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF HIM.
MAGNETO SEEMS TO BE GOING OUT OF HIS WAY NOT TO HURT US-- EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF TAKING SOME SERIOUS AND DAMAGING BLOWS HIM-SELF. THAT MAKES NO SENSE.
HE CAN'T STOP MY SHIELD. BUT MY THROW SHOULD FORCE HIM TO DODGE DIRECTLY INTO ITS RETURN PATH...
... AS IT RICOCHETS OFF THE RIDGE.

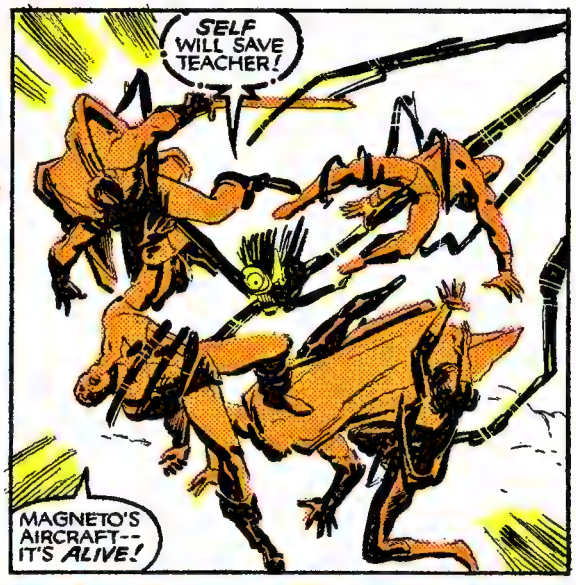
NASTY, NASTY, MISTER AMERICA.
YOU LEAVE OUR TEACH ALONE.
MAGIK-- DON'T!
NEVER FIGURED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MAGNETO-- ESPECIALLY SO SOON.

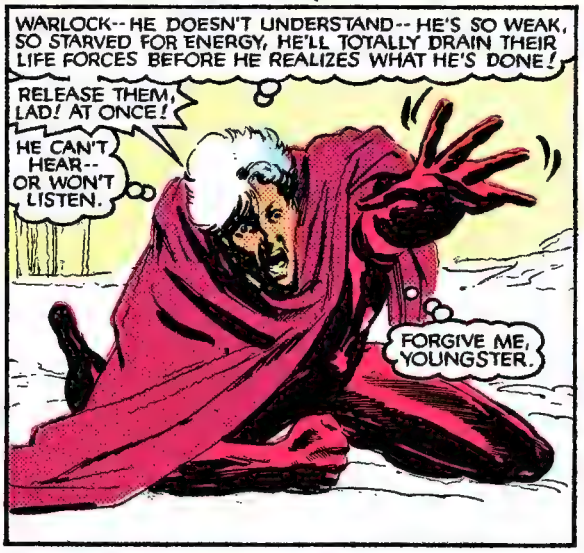
PALS ARE WAITING-- GOTTA GO!
SEE YOU LATER, MAYBE.
AND, BELATEDLY, CAP REALIZES THAT, WHAT-EVER ELSE THIS STRANGE GIRL IS, IT'S ANYTHING BUT "ORDINARY."

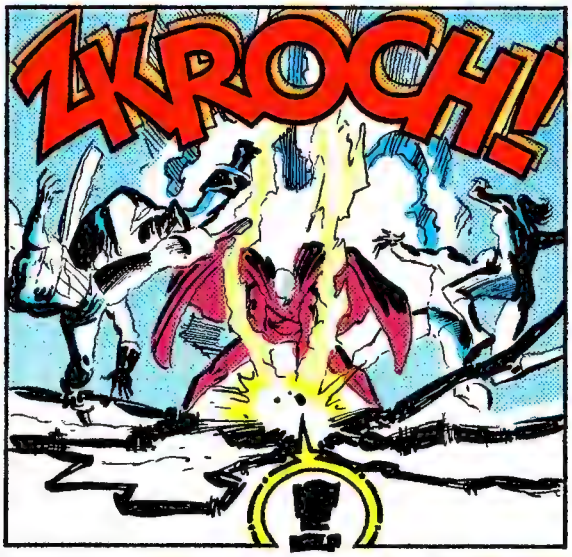
THIS LOOKS SERIOUS.
YOU CALLED IT, AMARA-- THAT *WAS* MAGNETO. HE AND WARLOCK ARE BEING GANGED UP ON BY THE AVENGERS!
BUT THEY'RE HEROES-- ?!
AN' MAYBE, DOUG, THEY FIGURE HE'S STILL A CROOK.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?! I MEAN, THEY REPRESENT THE LAW.
AND THIS TIME, THEY'RE MAKING A MISTAKE. NOBODY'S PERFECT.
THE REST OF YOU CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE...
...I'M GOING TO HELP.
IS THIS HOW YOU NEW MUTANTS REPAY THE WHITE QUEEN'S KINDNESS? YOU WERE DEATHLY ILL, SHE MADE YOU WELL...
...YET NOW, YOU ABANDON HER...
...LIKE THE *RATS* YOU ARE!
EMPATH-- CE N'EST PAS JUSTE! THAT IS *UNFAIR!*
WE OWE HER A LOT, THAT'S TRUE-- AN', SINCE WE'RE PART OF HER SCHOOL, WE SHOULD MIND HER, FOLLOW HER RULES--
--BUT MAGNETO WAS OUR TEACH.
HE DID RIGHT BY US, THE BEST HE COULD.
WE CAN'T ABANDON HIM.
YOU'LL MAKE THE QUEEN VERY ANGRY!
THEM'S THE BREAKS.
AS SOON AS WE'RE ALONE...
"... I'LL TELEPORT US TO HIM."
I MUST GATHER WARLOCK...
... CARRY HIM...
... SAFETY...
SO HARD-- BARELY BREATHE... MYSELF--
--HERCULES' BEAR HUG... MUST HAVE CRACKED... RIBS.
NEED A LIFT?
WASP-- FLYING-- BUT AT NEAR HUMAN SIZE?!!
YES, WE AVENGERS ARE JUST *FULL* OF SURPRISES.

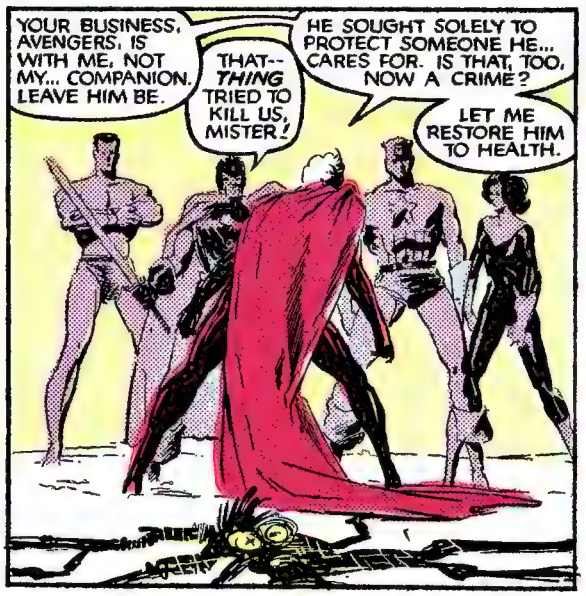
I MEAN, WHOEVER THOUGHT NAMOR WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO JOIN OUR RANKS?
OR THAT THE AVENGERS WOULD EXTEND IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHAM!
KRAK!
NOW, MUTANT, YOU ARE IN MY ELEMENT.
THE SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURE OF THAT LAKE HAS NO EFFECT ON ME...
... BUT IT WILL QUICKLY SAP YOU OF VITALITY.
YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE CLUMSY, HAMPERED BY CLOTHING-- WHILE I AM AS AGILE HERE AS IN THE AIR.
AND LASTLY, I CAN BREATHE UNDERWATER.
YOU CANNOT.
NAMOR?! YOU WERE DOWN A LONG TIME, WE WERE AFRAID--?!
THAT I WOULD LET HIM DROWN?
WERE I MASTER OF HIS FATE, PERHAPS.
BUT I HAVE TAKEN AN OATH, WASP, TO ABIDE BY YOUR LAWS. AND NAMOR'S WORD IS BOND.

WHAT NEXT--?
WE TURN HIM OVER TO THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.
TEACHER!
SELFOES HAVE DEFEATED HIM, WILL TAKE HIM AWAY--
--NO HOPE FOR SELF, FOR STOLEN SELFRIENDS!


SELF WILL SAVE TEACHER!
MAGNETO'S AIRCRAFT--IT'S ALIVE!


WARLOCK--HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND--HE'S SO WEAK, SO STARVED FOR ENERGY, HE'LL TOTALLY DRAIN THEIR LIFE FORCES BEFORE HE REALIZES WHAT HE'S DONE!
RELEASE THEM, LAD! AT ONCE!
HE CAN'T HEAR--OR WON'T LISTEN.
FORGIVE ME, YOUNGSTER.


ZKROCH!


YOUR BUSINESS, AVENGERS, IS WITH ME, NOT MY... COMPANION. LEAVE HIM BE.
THAT--THING TRIED TO KILL US, MISTER!
HE SOUGHT SOLELY TO PROTECT SOMEONE HE... CARES FOR. IS THAT, TOO, NOW A CRIME?
LET ME RESTORE HIM TO HEALTH.

THEN, YOU MAY DO WITH ME WHAT YOU WILL.
YOU HAD VICTORY WITHIN YOUR GRASP, MAGNETO, WE WERE AS GOOD AS FINISHED--
--WHY DID YOU SAVE US?
I TOLD YOU, CAPTAIN...
... I HAVE LEARNED A BETTER WAY.

STAND WHERE YOU ARE, VILLAINS!
NOBODY MOVES, NOBODY GETS HURT.
MAGNETO AN' HIS PAL ARE COMIN' WITH US.
YO, TEACH, WHO SAID YOU GET A CHOICE?
WHY DON'T YOU BOZOS GO PICK ON SOME BAD GUYS?
MAGNETO'S ONE OF THE HEROES!
'BYE!
CAP-- THOSE OTHER KIDS-- THEY VANISHED, TOO! ON DISKS OF ENERGY!
HARDLY UNEXPECTED, KNIGHT.
THE GIRL WHO VANISHED WITH MY SHIELD! SHE'S RETURNED WITH REINFORCE-MENTS!
THE NEW MUTANTS!
NO! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!
I FORBID IT!
MAGNETO'S REALLY UPSET. WHY IS HE SO SET AGAINST BEING RESCUED?
OR-- IS HE TRYING TO PROTECT THESE CHILDREN?
SEARCH PROCEDURE SEVEN-- WE'LL USE THE QUINJET'S SCANNERS TO TRY FOR A FIX--!
I WOULDN'T HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR SUCCESS, WASP.
WE HAVE TO TRY, CAP. MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY.
AT LEAST WE KNOW OUR WORST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED--
--MAGNETO HAS ESTABLISHED A "BABY BROTHER-HOOD."
THE WAY THOSE YOUNGSTERS RALLIED TO HIS SIDE, IT CERTAINLY LOOKS THAT WAY.
AND YET-- HOW OFTEN HAVE THE AVENGERS ACCEPTED FORMER CRIMINALS, FORMER FOES INTO OUR RANKS-- THE SCARLET WITCH, QUICK-SILVER, THE SWORDSMAN, MANTIS-- TO SEE THEM LIVE, AND SOME DIE, TRUE, NOBLE HEROES?
WAS THIS ANOTHER SUCH MOMENT THAT-- BECAUSE OF PAST ANTAGONISMS--
--WE'VE CAST AWAY?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

THE BULLPEN CHRISTMAS PARTY...

. . . was great. Live music by the **K-Otics**. A couple of Sushi chefs. Salads, hors d'oeuvres, snacks and pastries. A couple of tons of Chinese food. Oceans of drinks. Dancing. Presents.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD . . .

Santa's largest elf delivered some funny stuff:

—For tough-guy Executive Editor *Tom DeFalco*, a **doormat**, since he doesn't have an assistant. Also, a **baseball bat** and a (stuffed) **baby seal** so he can have some fun.

—For X-Men writer *Chris Claremont*, a **scale model** of tough-gal X-Men Editor *Ann Nocenti* wearing a **Black Queen costume**.

—For superstar artist *Bill Sienkiewicz*, who always looks so tan and healthy, an **artificial palm tree** to go with his sun lamp.

—For Editor *Bob Budiansky*, who recently moved to New Jersey, a **gas mask**.

—For our brand-new Production Manager, *Anita Duncan*, **spurs** and a **riding crop**.

—For visiting *Ana Loos*, Editorial Director of *Junior Press*, which publishes Marvel Comics in Holland, a souvenir **tee shirt** bearing the legend "**I ♥ New Amsterdam**".

—For Senior Editor *Larry Hama*, who scripts (and created) *G.I. JOE*, a huge **American Flag**.

—For a renowned *tightwad* who shall remain nameless, a pair of **Visegrip pliers** with a **penny** clenched in the teeth.

Everybody got something funny (and something nice).

For the elf himself there was an **evening out kit** (a pair of theater tickets, money enough for dinner for two, and four subway tokens). Also a cashmere scarf, two jars of hot peppers (yum) and a host of other nifties, too many to list.

Fantastic.

After the **K-Otics** (*Gary Hallgren, Nelson Yomtov, Jim Olbrys, Mark Bright, Brick Mason, Larry Hama*) finished up, some of the party guests jammed. At one point we had *Jim Owsley* on drums, *Barry Windsor-Smith* on guitar, *Mark Bright* on bass and *Nelson Yomtov* on harmonica. *Adam Blaustein, Don Daley*, and *Marcella Cherry* also chipped in.

My assistant *Lynn Cohen* organized it all. She gives good party.

And we know how.

MEANWHILE . . .

Questions flood in regarding the **New Universe**. Be patient. You'll hear more about it soon. Next month. Till then, don't let the turkeys get you down.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAKOTA NORTH #1**—If you want exciting detective action and offbeat adventure yarns, you've come to the right place! MARTHA THOMASES (writer) and TONY SALMONS (artist) promise you a wild time!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #231**—It's Matt Murdock vs. . . . Daredevil!?
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #40**—Guest starring the Avengers!
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #10**
- ☐ **THING #36**—With She-Hulk and the *New* Ms. Marvel!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #15**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #9**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #35**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #277**—Featuring a special bonus story by CHARLES VESS!
- ☒ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #318**—Beware the Scourge!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #77**—Oh no! What's happened to the Cloak of Levitation?
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #23**—Guest starring the Fantastic Four!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #9**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #7**—Catch up on issues #107–125!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #7**—Introducing everyone from Kraven the Hunter to Man-Thing!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #268**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #183**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #9**—Welcome new writer WALTER SIMONSON!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #48**—Introducing Sgt. Slaughter!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #320**—Face-to-face with AL MILGROM! Will the Hulk ever be the same again!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #188**
- ☐ **X-MEN #206**—Look out! It's the *new* Spider-Woman!
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #7**—Featuring the first appearance of J. Jonah Jameson, and lots more!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #291**—With Nick Fury!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #207**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #115**
- ☐ **THOR #368**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #17**—Meet the *new* Transformers!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #5**
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #21**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

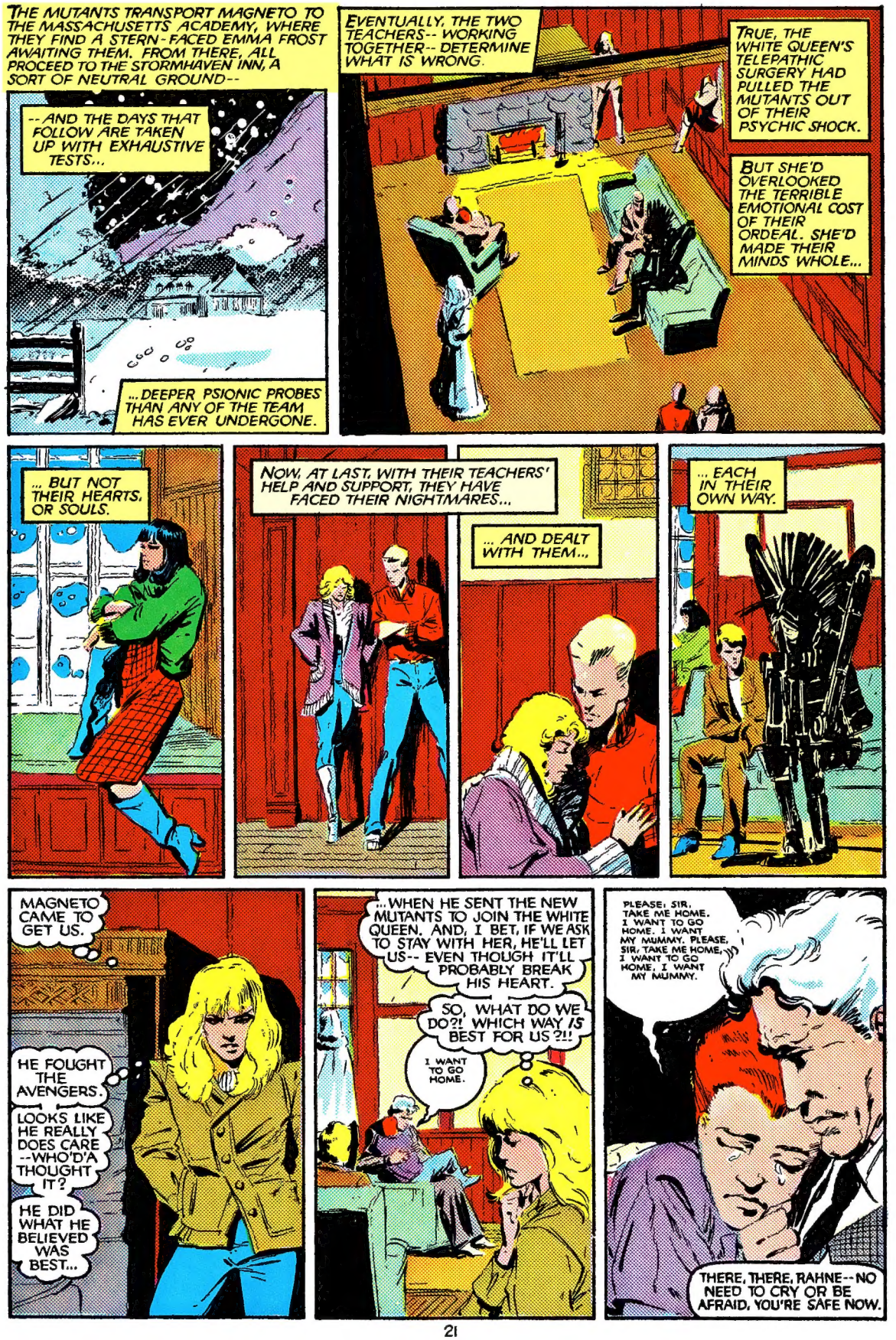
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #39**—First look at "The Misfits!"
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #124**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #7**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #24**—Willow is stranded!
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #13**—Torie puts the Squad in danger!
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #11**—Introducing Two-Edge the Troll!
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #16**

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #7**—Meet the Gorg's best friend!
- ☐ **MISTY (Limited Series) #4**—Featuring *three* stories!
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #4**—Introducing a *new* Thundercat, Lynxana!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #8**—How did Heathcliff shrink so small?
- ☐ **TOP DOG #8**—Top Dog loses his memory and forgets he can talk!
- ☐ **DROIDS #2**—R2D2 and C3-PO become "The Ultimate Weapon," thanks to DAVE MANAK (writer) and JOHN ROMITA, SR. and AL WILLIAMSON (artists)!


THE MUTANTS TRANSPORT MAGNETO TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY, WHERE THEY FIND A STERN-FACED EMMA FROST AWAITING THEM. FROM THERE, ALL PROCEED TO THE STORMHAVEN INN, A SORT OF NEUTRAL GROUND--
--AND THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW ARE TAKEN UP WITH EXHAUSTIVE TESTS...
...DEEPER PSIONIC PROBES THAN ANY OF THE TEAM HAS EVER UNDERGONE.
EVENTUALLY, THE TWO TEACHERS-- WORKING TOGETHER-- DETERMINE WHAT IS WRONG.
TRUE, THE WHITE QUEEN'S TELEPATHIC SURGERY HAD PULLED THE MUTANTS OUT OF THEIR PSYCHIC SHOCK.
BUT SHE'D OVERLOOKED THE TERRIBLE EMOTIONAL COST OF THEIR ORDEAL. SHE'D MADE THEIR MINDS WHOLE...
... BUT NOT THEIR HEARTS, OR SOULS.
NOW, AT LAST, WITH THEIR TEACHERS' HELP AND SUPPORT, THEY HAVE FACED THEIR NIGHTMARES...
... AND DEALT WITH THEM...
... EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY.
MAGNETO CAME TO GET US.
HE FOUGHT THE AVENGERS.
LOOKS LIKE HE REALLY DOES CARE --WHO'D'A THOUGHT IT?
HE DID WHAT HE BELIEVED WAS BEST...
...WHEN HE SENT THE NEW MUTANTS TO JOIN THE WHITE QUEEN. AND, I BET, IF WE ASK TO STAY WITH HER, HE'LL LET US-- EVEN THOUGH IT'LL PROBABLY BREAK HIS HEART.
SO, WHAT DO WE DO?! WHICH WAY IS BEST FOR US?!!
I WANT TO GO HOME.
PLEASE, SIR, TAKE ME HOME. I WANT TO GO HOME. I WANT MY MUMMY. PLEASE, SIR, TAKE ME HOME, I WANT TO GO HOME. I WANT MY MUMMY.
THERE, THERE, RAHNE-- NO NEED TO CRY OR BE AFRAID, YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

POOR THING. IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S THE YOUNGEST THAT SHE'S MOST AFFECTED?
FROST AND I HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN.
THE BEST PLACE FOR HER, I THINK, IS HOME.
SHE'LL RECOVER FASTER AND MORE COMPLETELY AMONG THOSE SHE LOVES BEST.
AS YOU WISH, RAHNE. YOU'LL BE THERE -- SAFE AND SOUND -- WITHIN THE WEEK.
THANK YOU, SIR -- THANK YOU!
AS WE HOPED, EMMA, THIS GRIEF CATHARSIS IS PURGING THE WORST AFTER-EFFECTS OF THEIR TRAUMA. THEIR ULTIMATE PROGNOSIS IS GOOD.
I AM GRATEFUL.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPLESS WITHOUT YOUR PSI-POWERS.
BUT YOU WERE ABLE TO REACH THEM ON DEEPER AND MORE EFFECTIVE LEVELS THAN I.
IN THIS CASE, THAT MADE THE CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE.
WHY WERE YOU READY TO WORK WITH ME, INSTEAD OF ON YOUR OWN?
I COULD SAY, THE KINDNESS OF MY HEART. OR, THAT I HAVE NO USE FOR DAMAGED GOODS.
CHOOSE THE REPLY YOU LIKE BEST.
MA'AM... ...WE'RE OBLIGED TO YOU, MORE'N WE CAN EVER REPAY. BUT, IF MAGNETO'S STAYIN' ON AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S -- IF HE'S RE-OPENIN' THE SCHOOL -- AH TRULY HATE TO SAY THIS, WE'RE ALL REAL SORRY...
...BUT THAT'S WHERE WE BELONG.
I QUITE UNDERSTAND, SAMUEL. I SHAN'T OPPOSE YOUR DECISION.
HOWEVER, I PRAY YOU REMEMBER ME, AND THE HELLIONS, WITH FONDNESS. FATE MAY CAST US AS RIVALS, BUT NEVER ENEMIES.
AND SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND A WELCOME AT MY DOOR, AND A PLACE AT MY TABLE.
TRY TELLING YOUR STUDENTS NOW, MAGNETO, THAT I AM EVIL AND MEAN THEM NO GOOD. THEY WILL THINK YOU JEALOUS OF MY GENEROSITY, AND THAT MUCH BETTER OF ME.
I CONCEDE YOU THIS VICTORY...
...BUT THE DICE WILL ROLL AGAIN.
NEXT:
WAY
of the
WARRIOR

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST